

NEUROPHYSIOLOGY OF POSTURAL MECHANISMS. By Tristan D. M. Roberts. (Pp. 354 and XVII ; illustrated. 100s). London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd.

BASIC IDEAS IN NEUROPHYSIOLOGY. By Tristan D. M. Roberts. (Pp. 108 and XI ; illustrated. 25s). London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd.

THESE two books can be conveniently considered together since the second volume is composed of the first four or five chapters of the first. The author is a senior lecturer in the Department of Physiology in Glasgow and has brought to his task many years of experience in explaining to students the complexities of the workings of the nervous system. The first few chapters of the first volume deal with the modern views on the basic phenomena of neuronal function, i.e. maintenance of membrane potential, excitation, conduction, synaptic transmission and receptor activation. The later chapters deal with the manner in which neuronal activity is integrated in the central nervous system to regulate posture and locomotion. Most students find these areas of study rather depressing because of the plethora of Sherringtonian reflexes whose relevance to ordinary locomotion seems obscure. In the present state of knowledge it is hard to avoid this. The author has made a valiant effort to keep a sense of reality in his descriptions. The parts dealing with the servo control of muscular activity are especially good. I would accept the publishers statement on the dust cover, "Anyone who is concerned with movement in man or in animals should find this book both stimulating and helpful". I.C.R.

SYMPOSIUM – DISORDERS OF THE HEART AND CIRCULATION. (Pp. 159. 25s). Edinburgh: The Royal College of Physicians, 1966.

THIS book of 159 pages gives a remarkable up-to-date review of cardiac problems of current interest at the present time. It includes addresses given at the Symposium by various authors of international repute. Such subjects as the surgical treatment of aortic stenosis and incompetence are covered comprehensively. There is also a section on the role of beta adrenergic blocking agents in treatment. There are many excellent illustrations and the contributors give their own personal view of the various complex problems in diagnosis and treatment. Discussion panels are also included and this book should be read by all physicians interested in the modern investigation and treatment of cardiac disease. E.F.

CARLETON'S HISTOLOGICAL TECHNIQUE. By R. A. B. Drury, M.A., D.M.(Oxon.), F.C.Path., and E. A. Wallington, F.I.M.L.T. Fourth Edition. (Pp. IX+432 ; figs. 55. 60s). London: Oxford University Press, 1967.

"CARLTON" was first published in 1926 and since then has been essential reading for all those interested in histological technique. This fourth edition has been completely rewritten. The wide experience of the main authors has allowed them to select reliable methods and the text reflects today's more scientific approach to histological technique.

The quality of the photographs is considerably superior to that of previous editions and the diagrams, expecting Fig. 40, fulfil their function admirably. References are at the end of each chapter and are an excellent blend of historical and modern. The four appendices, index of names cited in the text, and index of dyes are useful. The main index has been prepared by the authors themselves and displays clearly their disciplined approach to their subject.

This book deserves to become the main starting point for all serious students of histological technique and is particularly recommended to candidates for Membership of the College of Pathologists, for Associateship of the Institute of Medical Laboratory Technology and to those working in the biological sciences who need to demonstrate structure. J.O.